

## BUTTERFLY RECORDS OF INTEREST FROM THE NORTHERN RIVERS DISTRICT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

By C. G. Miller and I. G. Morhaus

35 Uralba Street, Lismore, N.S.W., 2480  
Evans Head Road, Woodburn, N.S.W., 2472

### Introduction

Between 1969 and 1974 we have taken 145 species from the Northern Rivers district. The total number of species occurring in the district is probably between 160 and 165.

Of the species discussed *Trapezites iacchus* has not previously been recorded from New South Wales. *Hypolimnys misippus*, *Pseudodipsas myrmecophila* and *Candalides cyprotus* have not been recorded previously from the Northern Rivers district and most of the remainder are known from the district in small numbers.

### List of species

*Trapezites iacchus* (Fabricius) was taken 38 km south of Grafton in open forest country adjacent to the Pacific Highway. One specimen was taken in the first week of November 1973, over a dozen fresh specimens on the 10th November 1973 and only worn specimens on 25th November 1973. This record extends the known range of this species southwards by 320 km from Burleigh Heads, Queensland.

*Toxidia crypsigramma* (Meyrick & Lower) is represented by three males taken late March and early April 1974 on a hill top 24 km west of Grafton. It has been taken previously near Grafton by F. S. Paul (Common & Waterhouse, 1972).

*Neohesperilla xanthomera* (Meyrick & Lower) has been taken fairly commonly on hill tops south and west of Grafton between September and March. It has been taken previously near Grafton by F. S. Paul (Common & Waterhouse, 1972).

*Hesperilla malindeva* Lower was taken on hill tops 16 km south and 24 km west of Grafton between September 1973 and April 1974. About 30 specimens have been taken.

*Hesperilla idothea idothea* (Miskin) occurs commonly at Peach Mountain, Whian Whian State Forest, north-east of Lismore, and was particularly abundant in 1971.

*Parnara naso sida* (Waterhouse) has been taken on hill tops south and west of Grafton between September 1973 and April 1974. This species was often the most abundant of the butterflies present. Upwards of a dozen could be seen flying around small trees after a short cloudy period, although stated by Common & Waterhouse (1972) to be uncommon.

*Parnara amalia* (Semper) has been taken commonly beside the Clarence River at Maclean in April 1968 and at Broadwater in March 1971.

*Ornithoptera priamus richmondia* (Gray) is found commonly wherever rain forest containing the food plant, *Aristolochia*, occurs. It survives even in very small clumps of rain forest (e.g. Victoria Park, near Lismore). In mountain localities there is one emergence only, in November when for example at Mt. Nardi, near Lismore, it is very common on lantana flowers. In coastal rain forest, butterflies have been observed in every month of the year but most commonly in September and March.

*Hypolimnas misippus* (Linnaeus) has been taken only twice; one male on a hill top 24 km west of Grafton on 13th April 1974 and another in a garden in Lismore on 15th May 1974.

*Ogyris genoveva genoveva* Hewitson has been taken fairly commonly in the Northern Rivers area. Specimens are indistinguishable from those taken between Burleigh Heads and Brisbane where Common & Waterhouse (1972) state that this subspecies occurs.

*Hypochrysops epicurus* Miskin has been taken commonly, as adults and early stages, at Brunswick Heads, Ballina and Evans Head. Doubtless it occurs elsewhere within its very limited range where the mangrove *Avicennia marina* grows. These areas are being rapidly destroyed by "developers" so that the survival of this species is in jeopardy.

*Hypochrysops digglesii* (Hewitson) has been reared from near Broken Head. Larvae were found late January 1974 and 40-50 adults emerged from the resulting pupae between mid February and March. Numerous small larvae were present in early April.

*Pseudodipsas cephenes* Hewitson was taken very commonly at Broken Head in February and March 1971 and less commonly the following June and July. A few have been observed each year since but no pattern of appearance dates has emerged. A few have also been taken at Woody Head, near Iluka.

*Pseudodipsas myrmecophila* Waterhouse & Lyell is represented by five males and one female taken on hill tops south of Grafton in November and December 1973 and west of Grafton in March 1974.

*Candalides cyprotus pallescens* (Tite) is known from a series of both sexes from west of Rappville, near Casino and a single male from 38 km south of Grafton. The specimens most resemble this subspecies.

### Reference

- Common, I. F. B. and Waterhouse, D. F., 1972. *Butterflies of Australia*. Angus and Robertson, Sydney. 498 pp.